



March 29, 2023

Minnesota House Health Finance and Policy Committee

Dear Chair Liebling and members of the House Health Finance and Policy Committee:

The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) is committed to making sure all Minnesotans have a fair and just opportunity to prevent, find, treat, and survive cancer. It is with these goals in mind that we share our support of the following provisions in the House Health Finance and Policy omnibus bill.

- 1. ACS CAN supports removing barriers to commercial tobacco cessation treatment (Article 1, Sec. 8, 20, 27).**
HF1574 (Bierman) would remove barriers to commercial tobacco cessation treatment for Medical Assistance and MinnesotaCare enrollees, ensuring more Minnesotans have a comprehensive cessation benefit that covers individual, group, and telephone counseling and all FDA-approved tobacco cessation medications without barriers. Smoking costs the state over \$7 billion a year: more than \$3 billion in excess health care costs and \$4 billion in lost productivity. In Minnesota's Medical Assistance program alone, smoking-related health care costs more than \$600 million. Removing barriers to quitting will save money and lives.
- 2. ACS CAN supports dedicating any funds from the JUUL Lawsuit to tobacco prevention and treatment (Article 3, Sec. 3, 72)**
HF2422 (Her) dedicates any revenue collected from the JUUL Lawsuit to proven, evidence-based programs to prevent youth tobacco use, help those addicted quit, and address tobacco-related health disparities.
- 3. ACS CAN supports modifications to the Cancer Reporting System (Article 3, Sec. 86, 202).**
HF1329 (Carroll) allows Minnesota to share its cancer data with other state and national cancer registries, which will make sure our researchers have the data they need to find new cures and treatments and ensure federal funding continues to come into our state to support the fight against cancer.
- 4. ACS CAN supports the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council (Article 3, Sec. 194).**
HF1940 (Bierman) which would restore funding for the Minnesota Palliative Care Advisory Council (PCAC) and remove the PCAC sunset date. The PCAC works to identify barriers to coordinated, supportive care during the treatment of serious illnesses such as cancer.

Thank you for including these provisions in the health omnibus bill and your continued leadership on issues important in the fight against cancer. We look forward to supporting your efforts in the weeks ahead to ensure this language is included in any final health omnibus bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Myatt".

Emily Myatt
Regional Government Relations Director
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network